

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 6-8, 10, 88, 102, 103, 108-110, and 114-141 were previously pending in this application. Claims 12, 13, 22, 87, 104-107, and 111-113 remain withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species. By this amendment, claims 122 and 124 have been amended and claims 142 and 143 have been added. No claims have been canceled. As a result, claims 6-8, 10, 88, 102, 103, 108-110, and 114-143 are pending for examination with claims 114, 122, 124 and 128 being the independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Examiner Interview

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Matthew for his courtesies during a telephone interview with Applicant Forrest Phillips, Edmund Walsh and Shannon Pratt on June 27, 2007. In preparation for this telephone interview, Applicant faxed the Examiner an informal draft declaration under 37 CFR §1.131 and draft claim amendments to some of the claims indicated to be allowable in the last Office Action. The declaration and claim amendments are submitted herewith for formal consideration. The substance of the discussion is incorporated into the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that claims 124-127 are allowed and claims 122, 123, 131 and 132 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed during the telephone conference, Applicant has amended independent claim 124 to remove the limitation that the horizontal inflatable portion is “adjacent the lower end of the inclined portion”. It is believed that claim 124 is still allowable over the cited art, even without this limitation. This limitation is now the subject matter of new dependent claim 143. Claims 125-127 remain dependent upon claim 124.

Similarly, as discussed during the telephone conference, Applicant has amended objected claim 122 to be rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 114 except for the limitation that the horizontal inflatable portion is “adjacent the lower end of the inclined portion”. It is believed that claim 122 is still allowable over the cited art, even without this

limitation. This limitation is now the subject matter of new dependent claim 142. Claim 123 remains dependent upon claim 122.

Applicant has not amended dependent allowable claims 131 and 132 because they depend from independent claim 128 which, as discussed below, is believed to be allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8, 10, 88, 114-116, 118-121, 128-129, 133-137 and 140-141 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourchounian (U.S. Design Patent No. D460,141), claims 88, 102-103, 110, 138 and 139 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourchounian in view of Jacober (U.S. Patent No. 4,805,898) and claims 108 and 109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourchounian in view of Merino (U.S. Patent No. 4,762,316).

Enclosed is the declaration of inventor Forrest B. Phillips under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 along with Exhibits A-I to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the August 25, 2000 filing date of Gourchounian. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims 6-8, 10, 88, 102, 103, 108-110, 114-116, 118-121, 128-129 and 133-141 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Gourchounian alone or in combination with either Jacober or Merino should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance. If this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully request an in person interview at the earliest possible convenience of the Examiner.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: June 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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